



LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, NEW ISSUE AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 1982 (PRELIMINARY)

PHONE INQUIRIES *for more information about these statistics*—contact Ms Susan Purcell on Canberra (062) 52 6503 or any of our State offices.
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MAIL INQUIRIES *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

Note: Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 13 below.

Participation in the labour force varies according to educational attainment—77.5 per cent of persons with post-school qualifications are in the labour force compared with 57.1 per cent of persons without post-school qualifications.

3,532,200 persons in the labour force (39.8 per cent) have a post-school qualification.

For persons not in the labour force, 794,000 (19.2 per cent) have a post-school qualification, of which 449,000 are females with trade or technical level qualifications.

116,100 persons with post-school qualifications and 347,700 persons without post-school qualifications are unemployed. Unemployment rates and average duration of unemployment are:

| | <i>Unemployment rate (per cent)</i> | <i>Duration of unemployment (weeks)</i> |
|--|---|---|
| Persons with post-school qualifications | 4.2 | 23.6 |
| Persons without post-school qualifications | 8.6 | 32.4 |

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In association with the February 1982 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia, persons aged fifteen years and over were asked about their highest educational qualifications. For persons with post-school qualifications, the information sought includes field of study, and for those who did not complete their schooling, it includes the age at which they left school.

2. During the two weeks beginning Monday 8 February, 1982, specially trained interviewers asked the questions of a sub-sample of 50,000 of the 69,000 respondents in the February labour force survey.

3. Results of similar surveys, the first conducted in February 1979 have been published in *The Labour Force: Educational Attainment, Australia* (6235.0).

4. This publication contains only a summary of the results of the survey. Estimates shown are preliminary and may be revised. Further information which will be published as soon as possible is available on request.

Scope

5. The survey includes all civilians aged fifteen years and over except:

- (a) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- (b) overseas visitors holidaying in Australia;
- (c) dependants of non-Australian defence forces personnel stationed in Australia;
- (d) students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of jails, reformatories etc.

Definitions

6. Definitions of the principal labour force categories appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0), but it should be noted that there are slight differences in the estimates for labour force categories shown in these publications. This is due to the different sizes of the samples used and the inability to obtain from a small number of persons the additional information required for the educational qualifications survey. Although the estimation procedures take account of these factors, estimates for some characteristics will be affected.

7. *Persons with a post-school qualification* are those who had left school and answer 'Yes' to the question: 'Since leaving school have you obtained a certificate, diploma, degree or any other qualification?'

8. *Classification of post-school qualifications.* Respondents indicate which one of the following groups best describes their highest qualification:

- (a) *Degree or equivalent:* a bachelor degree (including honours), a graduate or post-graduate diploma, masters degree or a doctorate;
- (b) *Trade, technical:* completion of an approved trade/technician apprenticeship or training course, other certificate or diploma in secretarial or business studies, administration, teaching, nursing, etc.;
- (c) *Other:* completion of other post-secondary education e.g. adult education, preparatory/bridging course or hobby course.

9. *Highest level of secondary school available* refers to the highest level of secondary schooling (or equivalent) offered by the education system at the time the respondent left school.

10. *Persons in the labour force but still at school* are those who, although attending school full time, have a full-time or part-time job or are actively seeking full-time or part-time work.

Comparability of the estimates

11. Educational attainment of persons not in the labour force is not available for the February 1979, 1980 and 1981 surveys which only covered persons in the labour force.

12. Estimates in this series are not strictly comparable with those from the population censuses due to differences in questions and coding methodology.

Reliability of the estimates

13. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) *sampling error:* since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*. More information about this topic will be found in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). A table of estimated standard errors for this survey follows these notes. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 25 per cent have not been shown in this publication, as the

degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from their value for most reasonable uses. Although figures for these small components can, in some cases, be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable.

- (b) *Non-sampling error:* inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

Related publications

14. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

Transition from Education to Work (Including leavers from schools, universities and other educational institutions), Australia, May 1981 (6227.0)

15. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 13 above.
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified

16. Because figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

| Size of estimate (Persons) | Approximate standard error of estimates | | Size of estimate (Persons) | Approximate standard error of estimates | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | Persons | Per cent of estimate | | Persons | Per cent of estimate |
| 4,500 | 1,100 | 24.9 | 200,000 | 5,900 | 2.9 |
| 6,000 | 1,300 | 21.5 | 500,000 | 8,250 | 1.6 |
| 10,000 | 1,650 | 16.5 | 1,000,000 | 10,400 | 1.0 |
| 20,000 | 2,250 | 11.3 | 2,000,000 | 13,000 | 0.7 |
| 50,000 | 3,400 | 6.8 | 5,000,000 | 17,050 | 0.4 |
| 100,000 | 4,500 | 4.5 | | | |

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER(a): EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS, FEBRUARY 1982

| Educational attainment | Number ('000) | | | | | | | Participation rate —per cent— | Unemployment rate |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Employed | | | Unemployed | In the labour force | Not in the labour force | Total | | |
| | Full-time | Part-time | Total | | | | | | |
| MALES | | | | | | | | | |
| With post-school qualifications | 1,726.3 | 62.8 | 1,789.1 | 50.6 | 1,839.7 | 257.2 | 2,096.9 | 87.7 | 2.7 |
| Degree or equivalent | 344.4 | 19.2 | 363.7 | 8.4 | 372.1 | 38.9 | 410.9 | 90.5 | 2.3 |
| Trade, technical level | 1,356.9 | 42.3 | 1,399.2 | 41.6 | 1,440.9 | 215.3 | 1,656.1 | 87.0 | 2.9 |
| Other | 25.0 | * | 26.2 | * | 26.8 | * | 29.8 | 89.8 | 2.1 |
| Without post-school qualifications | 2,156.7 | 103.3 | 2,259.9 | 192.3 | 2,452.2 | 707.9 | 3,160.2 | 77.6 | 7.8 |
| Attended highest level of secondary school available | 455.5 | 27.8 | 483.3 | 35.2 | 518.5 | 96.2 | 614.7 | 84.3 | 6.8 |
| Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age— | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 years or over | 26.3 | * | 27.2 | * | 30.3 | 7.0 | 37.3 | 81.1 | 10.2 |
| 16 or 17 years | 523.9 | 19.4 | 543.3 | 58.8 | 602.1 | 65.7 | 667.8 | 90.2 | 9.8 |
| 14 or 15 years | 961.0 | 43.8 | 1,004.8 | 78.8 | 1,083.6 | 375.2 | 1,458.9 | 74.3 | 7.3 |
| 13 years or under | 182.3 | 11.0 | 193.3 | 15.8 | 209.1 | 150.6 | 359.6 | 58.1 | 7.6 |
| Total | 1,693.5 | 75.1 | 1,768.6 | 156.5 | 1,925.0 | 598.6 | 2,523.6 | 76.3 | 8.1 |
| Never attended school | 7.7 | * | 8.1 | * | 8.7 | 13.1 | 21.8 | 40.0 | 7.5 |
| Still at school | * | 30.4 | 33.8 | 8.9 | 42.7 | 163.0 | 205.7 | 20.8 | 20.8 |
| Total | 3,886.4 | 196.5 | 4,082.9 | 251.7 | 4,334.7 | 1,128.1 | 5,462.8 | 79.3 | 5.8 |
| FEMALES | | | | | | | | | |
| With post-school qualifications | 579.0 | 254.0 | 833.0 | 65.5 | 898.5 | 536.9 | 1,435.4 | 62.6 | 7.3 |
| Degree or equivalent | 116.7 | 37.2 | 153.9 | 12.8 | 166.7 | 67.5 | 234.2 | 71.2 | 7.7 |
| Trade, technical level | 449.1 | 206.5 | 655.5 | 50.8 | 706.3 | 449.0 | 1,155.3 | 61.1 | 7.2 |
| Other | 13.2 | 10.3 | 23.5 | * | 25.5 | 20.4 | 45.9 | 55.5 | 7.8 |
| Without post-school qualifications | 938.3 | 502.1 | 1,440.4 | 155.4 | 1,595.7 | 2,329.8 | 3,925.6 | 40.6 | 9.7 |
| Attended highest level of secondary school available | 197.6 | 86.0 | 283.7 | 33.6 | 317.2 | 267.1 | 584.3 | 54.3 | 10.6 |
| Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age— | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 years or over | 10.3 | * | 13.2 | * | 15.6 | 11.1 | 26.7 | 58.3 | 15.0 |
| 16 or 17 years | 277.4 | 119.3 | 396.7 | 44.8 | 441.5 | 386.2 | 827.7 | 53.3 | 10.1 |
| 14 or 15 years | 385.5 | 263.9 | 649.4 | 65.4 | 714.9 | 1,326.8 | 2,041.6 | 35.0 | 9.2 |
| 13 years or under | 64.0 | 28.5 | 92.5 | 8.9 | 101.3 | 312.3 | 413.6 | 24.5 | 8.7 |
| Total | 737.2 | 414.7 | 1,151.9 | 121.4 | 1,273.3 | 2,036.4 | 3,309.7 | 38.5 | 9.5 |
| Never attended school | * | * | 4.8 | * | 5.2 | 26.3 | 31.5 | 16.5 | 7.9 |
| Still at school | * | 39.8 | 41.3 | 11.8 | 53.0 | 151.3 | 204.3 | 26.0 | 22.2 |
| Total | 1,518.8 | 795.8 | 2,314.6 | 232.7 | 2,547.3 | 3,018.0 | 5,565.2 | 45.8 | 9.1 |
| PERSONS | | | | | | | | | |
| With post-school qualifications | 2,305.3 | 316.8 | 2,622.1 | 116.1 | 2,738.2 | 794.0 | 3,532.2 | 77.5 | 4.2 |
| Degree or equivalent | 461.1 | 56.4 | 517.6 | 21.2 | 538.8 | 106.3 | 645.1 | 83.5 | 3.9 |
| Trade, technical level | 1,806.0 | 248.8 | 2,054.8 | 92.4 | 2,147.2 | 664.3 | 2,811.4 | 76.4 | 4.3 |
| Other | 38.2 | 11.6 | 49.7 | * | 52.3 | 23.4 | 75.7 | 69.0 | 4.9 |
| Without post-school qualifications | 3,095.0 | 605.3 | 3,700.3 | 347.7 | 4,048.0 | 3,037.7 | 7,085.7 | 57.1 | 8.6 |
| Attended highest level of secondary school available | 653.1 | 113.8 | 766.9 | 68.7 | 835.7 | 363.4 | 1,199.0 | 69.7 | 8.2 |
| Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age— | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 years or over | 36.6 | * | 40.4 | 5.4 | 45.8 | 18.2 | 64.0 | 71.6 | 11.8 |
| 16 or 17 years | 801.3 | 138.8 | 940.1 | 103.5 | 1,043.6 | 451.9 | 1,495.5 | 69.8 | 9.9 |
| 14 or 15 years | 1,346.5 | 307.7 | 1,654.2 | 144.3 | 1,798.5 | 1,702.0 | 3,500.5 | 51.4 | 8.0 |
| 13 years or under | 246.3 | 39.5 | 285.8 | 24.6 | 310.4 | 462.8 | 773.3 | 40.1 | 7.9 |
| Total | 2,430.7 | 489.8 | 2,920.5 | 277.9 | 3,198.4 | 2,634.9 | 5,833.3 | 54.8 | 8.7 |
| Never attended school | 11.2 | * | 12.9 | * | 14.0 | 39.4 | 53.4 | 26.1 | 7.7 |
| Still at school | 4.9 | 70.2 | 75.1 | 20.6 | 95.7 | 314.3 | 410.1 | 23.3 | 21.5 |
| Total | 5,405.2 | 992.3 | 6,397.5 | 484.4 | 6,881.9 | 4,146.1 | 11,028.0 | 62.4 | 7.0 |

(a) Excludes persons in institutions.

TABLE 2. PERSONS IN THE LABOUR FORCE : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND AGE, FEBRUARY 1982
(' 000)

| | Age group (years) | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|
| Educational attainment | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55 and over | Total |
| MALES | | | | | | | |
| With post-school qualifications | 18.9 | 224.1 | 599.3 | 483.8 | 314.8 | 198.9 | 1,839.7 |
| Degree or equivalent | * | 31.0 | 144.5 | 104.9 | 53.0 | 38.7 | 372.1 |
| Trade, technical level | 17.5 | 190.2 | 446.6 | 371.0 | 257.8 | 157.8 | 1,440.9 |
| Other | * | * | 8.2 | 7.9 | * | * | 26.8 |
| Without post-school qualifications(a) | 380.9 | 383.9 | 543.5 | 442.1 | 387.0 | 314.8 | 2,452.2 |
| Attended highest level of secondary school available | 90.3 | 139.8 | 157.7 | 62.4 | 39.3 | 29.0 | 518.5 |
| Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age— | | | | | | | |
| 18 years or over | * | 9.3 | 9.6 | 4.9 | 5.2 | | 30.3 |
| 16 or 17 years | 163.9 | 125.8 | 149.9 | 78.9 | 49.7 | 33.9 | 602.1 |
| 14 or 15 years | 124.4 | 104.4 | 205.7 | 246.1 | 223.2 | 179.7 | 1,083.6 |
| 13 years or under | * | * | 20.1 | 47.7 | 69.8 | 66.2 | 209.1 |
| Total | 290.6 | 243.7 | 385.2 | 377.7 | 345.4 | 282.4 | 1,925.0 |
| Still at school | 42.4 | * | * | * | * | * | 42.7 |
| Total | 442.2 | 608.3 | 1,142.8 | 925.9 | 701.8 | 513.6 | 4,334.7 |
| FEMALES | | | | | | | |
| With post-school qualifications | 55.8 | 191.2 | 280.5 | 202.2 | 121.5 | 47.3 | 898.5 |
| Degree or equivalent | * | 39.3 | 68.9 | 33.6 | 17.2 | 7.6 | 166.7 |
| Trade, technical level | 52.1 | 147.8 | 204.8 | 162.1 | 100.8 | 38.7 | 706.3 |
| Other | * | * | 6.7 | 6.5 | * | * | 25.5 |
| Without post-school qualifications(a) | 281.9 | 264.5 | 343.7 | 341.2 | 247.7 | 116.8 | 1,595.7 |
| Attended highest level of secondary school available | 84.3 | 86.9 | 64.8 | 38.8 | 26.8 | 15.6 | 317.2 |
| Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age— | | | | | | | |
| 18 years or over | 6.1 | | 5.3 | * | * | * | 15.6 |
| 16 or 17 years | 102.7 | 98.2 | 109.3 | 74.0 | 36.6 | 20.7 | 441.5 |
| 14 or 15 years | 91.7 | 73.4 | 149.9 | 187.9 | 147.6 | 64.4 | 714.9 |
| 13 years or under | * | * | 14.2 | 37.1 | 31.9 | 15.1 | 101.3 |
| Total | 197.6 | 177.6 | 278.7 | 301.4 | 217.8 | 100.2 | 1,273.3 |
| Still at school | 53.0 | * | * | * | * | * | 53.0 |
| Total | 390.8 | 455.7 | 624.1 | 543.4 | 369.2 | 164.1 | 2,547.3 |
| PERSONS | | | | | | | |
| With post-school qualifications | 74.7 | 415.3 | 879.7 | 686.0 | 436.3 | 246.2 | 2,738.2 |
| Degree or equivalent | * | 70.3 | 213.4 | 138.6 | 70.2 | 46.3 | 538.8 |
| Trade, technical level | 69.6 | 338.0 | 651.5 | 533.0 | 358.6 | 196.5 | 2,147.2 |
| Other | 5.0 | 7.1 | 14.9 | 14.4 | 7.6 | * | 52.3 |
| Without post-school qualifications | 662.9 | 648.4 | 887.2 | 783.3 | 634.7 | 431.6 | 4,048.0 |
| Attended highest level of secondary school available | 174.6 | 226.7 | 222.5 | 101.2 | 66.1 | 44.6 | 835.7 |
| Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age— | | | | | | | |
| 18 years or over | * | 13.2 | 14.9 | 7.3 | 4.5 | * | 45.8 |
| 16 or 17 years | 266.6 | 224.0 | 259.2 | 152.9 | 86.3 | 54.6 | 1,043.6 |
| 14 or 15 years | 216.1 | 177.8 | 355.6 | 434.0 | 370.8 | 244.1 | 1,798.5 |
| 13 years or under | * | 6.2 | 34.3 | 84.8 | 101.6 | 81.4 | 310.4 |
| Total | 488.2 | 421.3 | 664.0 | 679.1 | 563.2 | 382.6 | 3,198.4 |
| Never went to school | * | * | * | * | 5.4 | * | 14.0 |
| Still at school | 95.4 | * | * | * | * | * | 95.7 |
| Total | 832.9 | 1,064.0 | 1,766.9 | 1,469.3 | 1,071.0 | 677.7 | 6,881.9 |

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

TABLE 3. EMPLOYED PERSONS : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND OCCUPATION, FEBRUARY 1982
(^{' 000})

| Occupation group | With post-school qualifications | | | Without post-school qualifications | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|--|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Degree or equivalent | Trade, technical level | Total (a) | Attended highest secondary level | Did not attend highest level of secondary school and left at age (years) | | Total (b) | Total (c) |
| | | | | | 16 or over | 15 or under | | |
| Professional, technical and related workers | 377.2 | 392.4 | 770.7 | 73.6 | 34.2 | 37.8 | 145.7 | 917.2 |
| Administrative, executive and managerial | 46.3 | 154.9 | 203.0 | 52.8 | 58.0 | 96.0 | 207.2 | 410.2 |
| Clerical | 45.0 | 298.3 | 359.7 | 247.5 | 243.0 | 250.9 | 741.6 | 1,114.0 |
| Sales | 13.8 | 124.9 | 144.9 | 81.8 | 112.3 | 201.5 | 395.7 | 574.3 |
| Farmers, fishermen and forestry workers | 9.2 | 80.7 | 93.8 | 52.2 | 76.0 | 219.4 | 350.4 | 449.6 |
| Miners, quarrymen, etc. | * | 13.3 | 14.3 | * | * | 19.9 | 26.8 | 41.1 |
| Transport and communication | * | 76.6 | 82.0 | 32.9 | 55.5 | 163.6 | 252.1 | 335.2 |
| Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c. | 13.5 | 764.7 | 788.5 | 152.8 | 306.2 | 690.8 | 1,155.7 | 1,958.9 |
| Service, sport and recreation | 9.2 | 149.0 | 165.2 | 70.7 | 91.4 | 260.1 | 425.1 | 597.0 |
| Total | 517.6 | 2,054.8 | 2,622.1 | 766.9 | 980.5 | 1,940.0 | 3,700.3 | 6,397.5 |

(a) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (b) Includes persons who never attended school. (c) Includes persons aged 15 years and over who were in the labour force but still attending school.

TABLE 4. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND DURATION OF
CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, FEBRUARY 1982

| Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks) | | | | Without post-school qualifications | | | | | Total (c) |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|---|---|----------------|--------------|-------|--------------|
| | With post-school qualifications | | | Attended highest secondary level | Did not attend highest level of secondary school and left at age (years) | | Total (b) | | |
| | Degree or equivalent | Trade, technical level | Total (a) | | 16 or over | 15 or under | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| — '000— | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 and under 4 | 5.5 | 24.2 | 30.0 | 19.1 | 24.1 | 34.6 | 77.9 | 114.8 | |
| 4 " " 8 | 4.7 | 16.5 | 21.5 | 12.6 | 19.5 | 25.3 | 57.4 | 83.5 | |
| 8 " " 13 | 4.8 | 14.6 | 20.3 | 11.3 | 18.2 | 21.2 | 51.0 | 76.2 | |
| 13 " " 26 | * | 12.0 | 14.7 | 10.2 | 16.0 | 23.5 | 49.7 | 66.4 | |
| 26 " " 52 | * | 9.1 | 11.2 | 6.0 | 11.2 | 21.9 | 39.1 | 51.3 | |
| 52 and over | * | 16.0 | 18.5 | 9.6 | 20.1 | 42.4 | 72.6 | 92.2 | |
| Total | 21.2 | 92.4 | 116.1 | 68.7 | 109.0 | 168.9 | 347.7 | 484.4 | |
| — weeks— | | | | | | | | | |
| Average duration | 15.9 | 25.2 | 23.6 | 21.2 | 28.5 | 39.2 | 32.4 | 29.4 | |
| Median duration | 8.5 | 9.9 | 9.6 | 9.2 | 11.0 | 14.8 | 11.8 | 10.9 | |

(a) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (b) Includes persons who never attended school. (c) Includes persons aged 15 years and over who were in the labour force but still attending school.

